

FILED
MAY 13 2014
CLERK SUPREME COURT

Order

With adoption of a diploma privilege, the ISBA recommendations would also maintain the current character and fitness examinations required under court rule 31.9, and would revise the Iowa basic skills course. A study with focus group input regarding the basic skills course

was completed earlier this year by the Iowa Supreme Court Office of Professional Regulation and providers of the course. The court will consider the results of that study with the ISBA recommendations.

The supreme court asked its Bar Conduct and Review Committee to review the ISBA report. The Bar Conduct and Review Committee reviewed the report and has recommended the court seek public comment on the ISBA's recommendations for adoption of a diploma privilege for graduates of Iowa's two law schools and adoption of the Uniform Bar Examination for all other bar applicants. Before considering ISBA's recommendations, the court believes written comments and testimony at a public hearing will be helpful.

The court solicits public comment on the ISBA recommendations to remove the requirement to pass the Iowa bar exam for graduates of Drake University Law School and the University of Iowa Law School, thereby allowing graduates of those law schools, who complete required courses and pass the good moral character and fitness requirement, to automatically be licensed to practice law in Iowa. The court also solicits public comment on the ISBA recommendation to adopt the Uniform Bar Examination for applicants who would not qualify under the diploma privilege.

The following information is posted on the Iowa Judicial Branch website: (1) ISBA's report, and appendix A to the report that provides suggested amendments to chapter 31 of the Iowa Court Rules; and (2) a staff report providing additional information on the diploma privilege, the current format of the Iowa Bar Examination, and the Uniform Bar Examination.

Any interested organization, agency or person may submit comments regarding the ISBA's recommendations. Comments sent by email must be emailed to **rules.comments@iowacourts.gov**, must state **"Bar Admission Process"** in the subject line of the email and must be sent **as an attachment to the email in Microsoft Word format**. Instead of submission by email, comments may be delivered in person or mailed to the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Judicial Branch Building, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319.

Any comments received may be posted on the Iowa Judicial Branch website.

The deadline for submitting comments is 4:30 p.m. on July 14, 2014.

The public hearing is scheduled for August 27, 2014, in the Iowa Supreme Court courtroom. The court will determine presenters at a later date.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2014.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

By 
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice